

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1328
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
BILL FOR HIV/AIDS PATIENTS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of indifferent attitude of some Hospitals towards patients suffering from AIDS;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring in a legislation to penalize doctors who refuse to treat those, infected with HIV/AIDS;
- (c) whether Delhi has about 30,000 HIV positive people;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have drafted such a legislation in conformity to World Health Organisation ethical guidelines for HIV/AIDS patients; and
- (e) by when such a legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

- (a): Yes, Sir. However, the Government has initiated intensive advocacy sensitisation and training programmes for the medical and paramedical staff so that people living with HIV/AIDS are not discriminated, stigmatised or denied services.
- (b): No, Sir. The Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, duly notified and published on 6.4.2002 clearly states that no physician shall arbitrarily refuse treatment to a patient. The Medical Council of India can impose punishment on medical professionals who violate these Regulations.
- (c): The number of HIV infections in Delhi is estimated to be 29,002 in the year 2001.
- (d)&(e): Do not arise in view of (b) above.